Directive for RTI

2943. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's directive that Information Commission set up under RTI could take decisions on complaints and appeals from the public collectively and not individually has been seriously opposed by RTI activists;

(b) whether RTI activists strongly objected and launched an internet campaign to get it rescinded and have pointed out that directive further weaken institution of RTI and lead to piling up of complaints and appeals before the commission causing degeneration of the institution; and

(c) if so, to what extent Government has considered their views and by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Representations have been received against the advice given by the Government to the Central Information Commission that in absence of any provision in the Right to Information Act, 2005 regarding constitution of benches, the decisions on appeals and complaints should be taken by the Commission and not by its benches.

(c) The advice is in line with the provisions of the law.

Proposals from Karnataka

2944. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two proposals of the State Government of Karnataka for the sanctioning and release of funds under Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of the Central Government on strengthening capacity building and awareness generation for effective implementation of RTI Act, 2005 are pending with the Central Government for approval and release of funds; and

(b) if so, the status of the proposals and by when they are likely to be cleared and funds released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The Karnataka State Information Commission has sent a proposal for sanctioning of funds for IT enablement and propagation of RTI under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme. First instalments for both the components have already been released.

Tribal backlog

2945. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware about tribal backlog in various Departments of Central Government and services of Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) the action that are proposed by the Ministry to improve representations of Tribal employees in view of Constitutional reservations; and

(c) who is responsible for the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A special recruitment drive has been launched to fill up the backlog reserved vacancies.

(c) Some vacancies reserved for the Scheduled Tribes remain unfilled for the reasons like non-availability of suitable candidates, gap between arising of a vacancy and its filling up etc.

Drive against corruption

2946. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI in a nation-wide drive against corruption and alleged irregularities by public functionaries and also various recruitment boards has filed number of cases recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by Government to make CBI more effective and also to expand its organizational set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. CBI, in a nation-wide drive against corruption in June 2009, has registered 70 cases of corruption and alleged irregularities by public functionaries.

(c) A number of measures have already been taken by the Government to strengthen the CBI which *inter-alia*, include modernization and upgradation of infrastructure and capacity building of officers and staff of the CBI.

Poor, illiterate and malnourished people

2947. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has the largest number of poor, illiterate and malnourished people in the world and nearly 25 crore people go to bed hungry every night;

(b) whether it is not a sorry state-of-affairs despite the fact of our independence long back of over 60 years; and

(c) whether something concrete would be done to uplift these sectors and a time frame for it by giving top priority?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.